



US & CANADA

Newsletter

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MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

US POLITICS

- More than 175 House Democrats backed a [stopgap bill funding the government](#) through Dec. 11, and it passed 370-48. Democrats had mostly opposed a Republican-led funding patch in July. They supported this Senate-passed version because of a federal grant provision and language limiting transfers of money to ICE and Border Patrol. Nineteen Republicans and 29 Democrats voted no, and the Senate had approved the bill in early August. [President Trump signed](#) it on Wednesday, Sept. 2, so agencies stay funded through the November midterms. The bill had passed the Senate 90-6. The result was a calm end to the fiscal year after the long shutdowns of the past two years. The harder budget fight was simply moved to December. That sets up another holiday-season appropriations battle.

- District Judge Deborah Boardman of Maryland issued a preliminary injunction on Sept. 2, 2026. It temporarily [stops the government from enforcing an executive order](#) that would have denied citizenship to certain children born in the US. The injunction stays in place until a class-action lawsuit brought by immigrant families and advocacy groups is resolved. Trump had issued the “[Ending Birth Tourism](#)” order on Aug. 6. Unlike his original order, it did not try to end birthright citizenship entirely. It targeted parents who supposedly made a commercial transaction to buy or access citizenship for their child. Some families said they feared their children could lose citizenship just because the parents had bought airfare to travel to the US. Boardman held that the Supreme Court had already ruled on this issue in June. She also

rejected the Justice Department's argument that the lawsuit was premature.

- On Sept. 8, Trump issued [proclamations banning certain Canadian alcohol](#), dairy products and motorcycles from entering the US. He also extended his 50% tariff to more goods. He acted hours after Canada's retaliatory tariffs took effect on about \$20 billion of American products. Those Canadian tariffs were themselves a response to 50% US tariffs imposed the previous month on roughly \$20 billion of Canadian goods, after several rounds of talks collapsed. The alcohol ban covers beer, wine, cider, whisky, rum, gin, vodka, brandy and other spirits. The dairy ban covers certain whey products, molasses and non-alcoholic beer. The motorcycle ban applies only to bikes with engines larger than 800 cc. All of the bans took effect Sept. 29. The dispute led Prime Minister Mark Carney to call for Canada to rely less on the US [and raised doubts about the future](#) of the USMCA trade pact.

- Republicans gathered at [the American Airlines Centre in Dallas](#) on Sept. 9 and 10 for an unusual midterm-year national convention. The Republican National Committee called it the first midterm convention in modern American history, with 109 speakers and program items across two evenings. At the convention, Trump promised to send every American adult \$5,000 if Republicans [keep control of the House and Senate](#). Vice President JD Vance closed the event by calling Democrats “the party of hatred” and addressing speculation about a 2028 run. An NPR analysis found that fewer than half of the Republican candidates in [competitive House and Senate](#) races were scheduled to speak.

- On Sept. 16, the Federal Reserve under Chair Kevin Warsh [raised its benchmark interest](#) rate for the first time since 2023. The committee voted 12–0 to raise the federal funds target range by a quarter point to 3.75–4.00%, effective Sept. 17. Warsh said the labour market was healthy but inflation had been above the Fed’s target for more than five years, so price stability was the top priority. The Fed’s new projections put 2026 headline PCE inflation at 3.7% and core at 3.4%. The [committee decided the oil price shock](#) from the Iran war had lasted long enough to risk spreading into other prices. Trump, who chose Warsh and has repeatedly pressed for lower rates, posted that rates should be 1% or less, though he did not attack Warsh directly. Policymakers pencilled in another increase later in 2026.

- On Sept. 18, Trump said he [was banning CNN, MS NOW and Politico](#) from the White House over what he called unfavorable coverage, and warned that more bans could follow. Reporters from the three outlets were turned away and had their press badges deactivated or confiscated. The outlets sued, arguing the ban violates their free speech and free press [rights under the Constitution](#). In solidarity, the other major TV networks suspended presidential pool coverage, cutting off the main video source for White House events. The [Justice Department defended](#) the ban in court. It argued that the outlets’ reporting on topics such as the White House ballroom construction and depleted ammunition during the Iran war had endangered national security. On Sept. 29, the outlets asked a federal court to block the ban while the case continues.

- Trump addressed the [81st UN General Assembly in New York](#). In the speech he asked whether he should “annihilate” Iran or offer it a deal to rebuild. He then told reporters that US and Iranian officials had met on the sidelines, and most of Iran’s delegation walked out during his remarks. Much of the speech promoted his administration’s record and US strength. He also said the US would now call artificial intelligence “[Super Intelligence](#),” including in government documents, arguing that the word “artificial” makes the technology seem less real. He used the speech to dismiss AI safety [warnings and to frame the race against China](#) as one the US must win. On the sidelines, his schedule included meetings with Ukraine’s President Zelensky, the UK and Japanese prime ministers, and Gulf Cooperation Council leaders.

- Trump signed an [agreement with Denmark and Greenland](#) to strengthen Arctic and North Atlantic security. The deal eased tensions caused by his repeated calls for Greenland to become part of the United States. It was signed on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, a few days after Trump announced a deal to expand the US military presence on [the island while it stays under Danish control](#). The agreement would still apply if Greenland eventually becomes independent. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said the deal respects the Kingdom’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and the Greenlandic people’s right to self-determination. Greenland’s prime minister called it a [win for all three parties](#), and a Greenlandic official noted it was the first binding agreement Greenland has signed as a

country. Trump had talked about acquiring Greenland since 2019 and, in his second term, had threatened to seize the territory from Denmark, a NATO ally.

INDIA-US RELATIONS

- India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri hosted senior officials from [Australia](#), [Japan](#) and the [US](#) in New Delhi on Sept. 3. The US was represented by Sergio Gor, Washington's Special Envoy to South and Central Asia and Ambassador to India. The meeting followed up on the [Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting](#) held in New Delhi on May 26 and prepared for the next ministerial. The officials discussed maritime and transnational security, economic prosperity, critical and emerging technologies, and humanitarian and emergency response. They also talked about [possible new initiatives](#) to announce at the next Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Gor said the Quad was moving forward with clear purpose and that the group discussed an action plan with concrete deliverables.

- Trump's annual presidential determination for fiscal year 2027 listed India, [China](#) and [Pakistan](#) among 23 major drug-transit or illicit drug-producing countries. It was submitted to Congress on Sept. 15 and made public on Sept. 16. The determination also praised Prime Minister Modi's efforts to curb illicit opium poppy cultivation and strengthen supply-chain security. Trump said he looked forward to continued cooperation under [the US-India Drug Policy Framework](#). India was not among the four countries (Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma and Colombia) judged to have "failed demonstrably" to meet their counter-narcotics obligations. The

document notes that being on the list does not necessarily reflect a government's counter-drug efforts or its cooperation with the US. India and China were also on the previous year's list, so the inclusion was routine but still [drew attention in Indian media](#).

- External Affairs [Minister S. Jaishankar](#) led [India's delegation to the high-level](#) week of the 81st UN General Assembly in New York, with a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings. He was scheduled to address the General Debate on Sept. 26. The session opened on Sept. 8. [Trump addressed world leaders](#) on Sept. 22, his second UN speech of his second term, and Pakistan's head of government spoke on Sept. 25, the day before Jaishankar. The trip came days after the US sanctions law passed, so his US [engagements in New York](#) were closely watched in New Delhi as a test of whether senior-level dialogue could ease the tensions over Russian oil and trade.

- Jaishankar met [Secretary of State Marco Rubio](#) in New York on Sept. 23 to discuss strengthening the India-US strategic partnership. Rubio said they talked about building on the partnership and coordinating on regional priorities and upcoming multilateral efforts. [Jaishankar said he restated India's interests](#) and concerns about the new sanctions law, and that the two also discussed the situations in the Gulf and Ukraine. The meeting was India's highest-level direct contact with Washington since the law passed. It allowed New Delhi to argue its case against secondary tariffs in person. The next day, the State Department published a [statement](#)

[on US policy for a stable](#), prosperous and sovereign South Asia.

- Commerce Minister [Piyush Goyal](#) [traveled to the US](#) at the end of September for the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Milwaukee, which opened Sept. 30. The US holds the G20 presidency in 2026. India's commerce secretary said a bilateral meeting with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer was being arranged and would cover all trade issues, including the ongoing trade agreement talks. The countries had announced a [framework for an interim trade deal](#) in February. They have been reworking it because changes in US tariff policy upset the earlier terms. Goyal has said the first phase of the deal will take effect once the US ensures India gets an [advantage over competing](#) exporters.

DIASPORA NEWS

- Trump signed a proclamation extending the \$100,000 fee on [certain H-1B petitions](#) by 12 months, to Sept. 21, 2027. The fee applies to new petitions for workers who are outside the US. It does not apply to people who already hold an H-1B visa or an approved petition filed before Sept. 21, 2026. However, the fee cannot currently be collected: a Massachusetts federal court struck it down on June 8, 2026, and an appeals court refused to pause that ruling on July 24. The new proclamation relies on the same legal authority the court [already found insufficient](#), so more litigation is expected if the government tries to collect it. Before the fee was introduced in 2025, H-1B petition fees were typically \$2,000 to \$5,000. The issue matters most to Indians: in fiscal 2023, about 73% of approved H-1B workers were born in India.

- Vivek Ramaswamy, the son of Indian immigrants, is [the Republican nominee for Ohio](#) governor. Endorsed by Trump, he faces Democrat Amy Acton, a physician and former state health director, to succeed term-limited Governor Mike DeWine. He began 2026 as the favorite, but the race has tightened. As of Sept. 7, the RealClearPolling average had Acton ahead by 0.3 points, a statistical tie, and the Polymarket betting market gave her about a 57% chance of winning. In early September, a registered Republican was arrested after [allegedly charging at Acton during](#) a campaign stop at the Canfield Fair, adding tension to the race. If Ramaswamy wins on Nov. 3, he would be among the most prominent Indian-American elected officials in the country. That makes this race one of the diaspora's most closely watched in the midterms.

- Before his UN speech, Trump visited Gracie Mansion, the official residence of New York's mayor, for talks with Mayor Zohran Mamdani, who is of Indian origin. They agreed to step up discussions on a plan for new housing in the city. It was the [first presidential visit to Gracie](#) Mansion in 45 years and the two men's third in-person meeting, after White House meetings in November 2025 and February 2026. Negotiators will continue technical talks on a \$21 billion plan to build 12,000 homes above Sunnyside Yard in Queens. Trump called the visit "[a little bit of old home week](#)" and told Mamdani he hoped he would be "a great one." Mamdani insisted that all press outlets be allowed at the event, pushing back on Trump's recent ban on certain news organizations. The meeting was one of the most watched

political encounters involving an Indian-origin leader this year.

- According to ISS-Corporate and data provider Equilar, a record 16 Indian men joined S&P 500 boards in 2026, at companies including Walmart, [Southwest Airlines](#) and [Western Digital](#). Only white men and women added more seats. Bloomberg reported the trend on Sept. 28, describing Indian executives as gaining influence in corporate America as companies retreat from diversity programs. The same week, several [executives of Indian origin](#) appeared on Time's first "Executives of the Year: Tech and Data" list of 50 leaders, including Rahul Patil, chief technology officer at Anthropic. Karandeep Anand was also named Disney's new chief technology officer. Together, these appointments contrast with the visa restrictions above: Indian-born professionals are reaching the top of US business while immigration routes for newcomers are narrowing.

CANADA POLITICS

- Canada's [retaliatory tariffs on American goods](#) took effect on Sept. 8. They answered the 50% tariffs the US imposed in August after trade talks collapsed. The Canadian tariffs target US goods worth the same amount as the Canadian goods hit by US tariffs, with rates of 15%, 25% or 50% on about C\$27.6 billion of products. Prime Minister Mark Carney had announced the response on Aug. 22, saying talks failed because the US "[asked too much](#) and they offered too little." According to Canadian officials, US negotiators made last-minute demands touching Quebec culture, French-language

protections and Canada's ability to [sign trade deals](#) with other countries. Carney had said Canada was still ready for a deal that benefits both countries, and announced C\$4.7 billion to build more than 300 Via Rail passenger cars in Canada instead of importing them from the US.

- Quebec's campaign for [the provincial election](#) turned on whether there would be another vote on independence. On Sept. 9, Parti Québécois (PQ) leader Paul St-Pierre Plamondon said he would hold a sovereignty referendum even if his party [won only a minority government](#). Liberal leader Charles Milliard accused him of having a single obsession. In the first two debates, on Sept. 15 and 16, Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) leader Christine Fréchette kept framing the election as a choice between her party and the PQ. In the final debate on Sept. 23, St-Pierre Plamondon urged voters not to fear a referendum. Conservative leader Éric Duhaime replied that about [70% of Quebecers](#) do not want one. Other major issues were the US trade war, the cost of living and immigration. Analysts said the divided electorate could produce a minority government.

- Carney became [the first sitting Canadian prime minister](#) to attend European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen State of the Union speech address, and she said Europe wanted to open the door for Canada to become the EU's first "associate member". The next day he spoke to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, and welcomed the idea while noting that "[associate membership](#)" still had to be defined. He said Canada was not seeking full membership and that any

deeper partnership would be debated and voted on in Canada's Parliament. Details are expected at the EU-Canada Summit in Montreal in October. Trump called a possible Canada-EU [arrangement a hostile act and threatened serious](#) tariffs on the EU. Conservative MPs warned it could weaken Canadian sovereignty.

- Carney met French President Emmanuel Macron in Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, a French territory about 20 km off Newfoundland. It was [the first official visit](#) there by a sitting Canadian prime minister. The two leaders ordered their space agencies, defence ministries and industries to develop shared space infrastructure, including launch systems and ground stations. They also agreed to [deepen cooperation on defence](#), aerospace and wildfire management. Their talks covered the war in Ukraine, European and transatlantic security, the Middle East and the Arctic. Asked about US pressure on Canada's choice of partners, Carney said "nobody is going to tell us" whom Canada can make agreements with. The leaders laid wreaths at a memorial to the islands' 529 fighters for Free France in the Second World War. French media described the meeting as a strong message to Trump.

- Carney [attended the 81st UN General Assembly](#) in New York but did not address the General Assembly himself; Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand delivered Canada's speech. On Sept. 22, he co-hosted an event on a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine with France and the UK, a year after the three countries recognized a Palestinian state. He also called for [real progress on reforming the UN](#) so that it stays relevant. He joined von

der Leyen at an OceanEye International Alliance event on ocean data and announced C\$82 million over five years for ocean observation. Canadian media described Carney as an [emerging global voice](#) for multilateralism, in contrast to Trump, who used his UN speech the same day to defend the Iran war.

- British Columbia Premier David Eby [called a provincial election](#) for Oct. 24, two years early, and asked voters to join him in saying "hell no to Trump." He argued that Trump's trade war and threats to Canadian sovereignty justified going to the polls before the 2028 deadline. He noted that B.C.'s exports to the US had fallen 4% while exports to other markets rose 16%. His NDP won a narrow majority in 2024. The call came during [turmoil in the opposition B.C. Conservatives](#), whose leader Kerry-Lynne Findlay had resigned the weekend before. Critics called the election opportunistic. They pointed to its estimated cost of \$83–84 million, the province's \$13.8 billion deficit, and its overlap with municipal elections. Voters will cast ballots in both elections this fall.

INDIA-CANADA RELATIONS

- On Sept. 2, officials from India's Ministry of External Affairs and Global Affairs Canada held their annual [Foreign Office Consultations at Hyderabad House](#) in New Delhi. India's side was led by Rudrendra Tandon, Secretary (East), and Canada's by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Arun Thangaraj. Both sides said the talks reflected steady momentum in the relationship since June 2025, when Carney and Modi met at the G7 summit and began repairing ties. They reaffirmed their

partnership, based on shared democratic values, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the rule of law. They reviewed cooperation on energy and critical minerals, science and [technology, education, security and defence](#), culture and consular matters. The meeting was another sign of how far relations have recovered since the 2023 dispute over the killing of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

- India and Canada held the fourth round of [talks on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement \(CEPA\)](#) from Sept. 14 to 18. The talks covered trade in goods and services, rules of origin and technical barriers to trade. Canada sent a team of 48 officials, [and India's commerce secretary said two chapters](#) had already been finalized. The round followed a third round held in Ottawa in July. According to Indian data, two-way trade fell 8.22% to \$7.95 billion in 2025–26. India mainly exports pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, [seafood and clothing to Canada](#), and imports pulses, gemstones, coal, fertilizer and crude oil. Both governments aim to finish the agreement by the end of 2026.

- Canada's Minister of International Trade, Maninder Sidhu, met India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal in Mumbai on Sept. 18, along with both countries' chief negotiators. They [reaffirmed their governments' commitment to finishing](#) the CEPA as soon as possible. Sidhu said two-way trade reached \$30.4 billion in 2025 and that the goal is to more than double it to \$70 billion by 2030, in areas from aerospace and AI to [clean energy and critical minerals](#). He also met business leaders from Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW

Group, Bajaj Integrated Health System and CAE, and said he would lead a Team Canada trade mission to India next month. On Sept. 21, Goyal said the countries had agreed [to fast-track the talks](#), that the fifth round would begin Oct. 5, and that the next 90 days could define the relationship.

- At a news conference during the UN General Assembly on Sept. 22, Prime Minister Mark Carney said [trade talks with India were making "good progress."](#) He said the two countries aim to finish them by the G20 summit in mid-December. He also said that, as he understood it, India had confirmed Modi would visit Canada around that time, though no date was set. Carney described [the relationship as "exceptionally important"](#) for people-to-people ties, security, trade and the economy. The G20 summit is scheduled for Dec. 14–15 in Miami. Carney wants to double Canada's trade outside the [US over the next decade](#), and India is central to that plan as relations with Washington worsen. His own visit to India in March was the first bilateral visit by a Canadian prime minister since 2018.

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand at the UN General Assembly in New York on Sept. 26. Afterward, Jaishankar said the two countries are [preparing to take their relationship](#) "to a higher level," calling it a "productive discussion." Indian reporting said they discussed trade, the economy and security. The meeting continued a run of frequent contact: their [March meeting in New Delhi](#) had already been their sixth since September 2025, and they also met in Manila in July. It came days after Carney's

comments on PM Modi's expected visit. Indian commentators described the meeting as part of the wider repair of ties since Justin Trudeau left office.

DIASPORA NEWS

- Ritu Khullar, Chief Justice of Alberta and of the appeal courts of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, died of cancer on Sept. 3 at age 62. She was the first woman of South Asian descent to become a [provincial chief justice in Canada](#), appointed in 2022. Khullar had been on medical leave since January 2026 after surgery, and Dawn Pentelchuk had been acting chief justice. Before becoming a judge, she spent more than 20 years as a [leading Alberta lawyer in labour, human rights](#), administrative and constitutional law. Federal Justice Minister Sean Fraser called her a respected jurist and leader. The Nunavut appeal court said she understood that justice is “the application of law to life.” She was a landmark figure for the Indo-Canadian community, though she was reported to be uncomfortable when that part of her identity was emphasized.

- From Sept. 1, 2026, new study-permit applicants (outside Quebec) must show C\$23,448 to cover a year of living costs. Canada plans 155,000 permits for new [international students in 2026, and its immigration department](#) wants an expanded verification system fully in place by Sept. 30. Indian students feel these limits most because Indians became the largest international student group during Canada's earlier expansion. India received only 75,372 study permits in 2025, about half of 2024's total, under a cap brought in partly over fraud concerns. Even so, more than 425,000 Indian students are in Canada,

and student mobility remains a major issue in the trade talks.

- The Consulate General of India in Vancouver held its [annual Namaste Canada festival](#) in September 2026. The free public event celebrates Indian culture through dance, music and performances by local diaspora groups. The Indo-Canadian Voice newspaper reported that this year's festival drew about 7,500 visitors. The festival is usually held at the Vancouver Art Gallery's North Plaza and brings together dozens of Indo-Canadian cultural associations. Its large turnout reflected how much India–Canada relations have improved: after the 2023 diplomatic rupture, consular community events had been scaled down amid security tensions. It was one of the most visible gatherings of the Indian community in British Columbia this year.

- The FBI added Satinderjeet Singh, known as Goldy Brar, to its [Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list](#) and offered up to \$1 million for information leading to his arrest. The FBI describes him as a North American leader of the Lawrence Bishnoi crime group. He faces [US charges of racketeering, extortion and drug conspiracy](#), and is known to have lived in California and parts of Canada. India has designated him a terrorist, and he became widely known in India after the 2022 murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala. Lisa Moreland, a senior RCMP official, said Brar's network had caused devastating [harm through killings, shootings, threats, extortion](#), arson and drug trafficking. She said the RCMP would keep working with the FBI to catch him. For Indo-Canadian businesses targeted by extortion gangs, the listing was a significant step.